during Tenth Five Year Plan ranged between 31-33 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) and natural gas production was about 31-32 Billion Cubic Metric (BCM). The main reason of stagnant production was natural decline of the aging field. ONGC, Oil and Private/Joint Venture companies are implementing Improved Oil Recovery/Enhanced oil Recovery techniques to arrest the decline in oil & gas production. In addition, following steps have been taken to enhance oil & gas security for the country:

(1) Offering of Exploration blocks through New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

(b) Faster development of oil & gas discoveries.

(c) Acquisition of oil & gas assets abroad.

(d) Focusing on alternate sources such as Coal Bed Methane (CBM), Gas hydrates, Undergroiund Coal Gasification (UCG) etc.

Supply of kerosene oil to ration card holders

†2983. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide additional kerosene oil to the APL ration card holders of the families above the poverty line;

(b) if so, the quantity of additional oil that will be provided; and

(c) whether this will not affect the BPL ration card holders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to provide additional kerosene oil under Public Distribution System (PDS) to Above Poverty Line (APL) ration card holders.

(b) and (c) Does not arise, in view of reply of part (a) above.

Production of CBM in Jharkhand

†2984. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of scheme for production of methane in coal-beds in Jharkhand by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.